

CHAPTER 174

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

HOUSE BILL 22-1299

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Young, Bacon, Benavidez, Bennett, Bird, Boesenecker, Caraveo, Cutter, Duran, Esgar, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Jodeh, Lindsay, Lontine, McCluskie, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Roberts, Snyder, Titone, Weissman; also SENATOR(S) Kolker and Fields, Buckner, Coram, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Rodriguez, Sonnenberg, Story, Fenberg.

AN ACT

CONCERNING A TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS CASH FUND IN THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR TO FACILITATE FEE RELIEF FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS REGULATED BY BOARDS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(a) The global pandemic has caused tremendous strain on the health-care system and, in particular, on frontline health-care providers;

(b) Mental health professionals have been especially hard hit as they are the primary providers of care during a time when the pandemic has resulted in a significant increase in the number of adults who report symptoms of stress, anxiety, depression, and insomnia;

(c) One in five adults experiences a mental health condition each year, but only forty percent receive services as there are not enough providers to keep up with the demands for mental health services;

(d) The increased demands for mental health services impose tremendous strains on the health-care system and on mental health professionals trying to meet the demands; and

(e) Due to these tremendous challenges, many of these critical mental health

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

professionals are leaving the field or struggling to remain in their jobs, given the stressful work environments.

(2) In recognition of the incredible services these critical mental health professionals have delivered throughout the pandemic and of the selfless sacrifices they have made, it is the intent of the general assembly to provide licensure and certification fee relief for psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, psychotherapists, and addiction counselors.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-105, **add** (8) as follows:

12-20-105. Fee adjustments - division of professions and occupations cash fund created - legal defense account created - general fund transfer - definition - repeal. (8) (a) ON JULY 1, 2022, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS CASH FUND. THE MONEY TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (8)(a) IS NOT SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE DIVISION SHALL USE THE MONEY TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (8)(a) BEGINNING IN THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR AND UNTIL THE AMOUNT IS FULLY EXPENDED TO FUND THE COSTS OF THE STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS, THE STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS, THE STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST EXAMINERS, THE STATE BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS, THE STATE BOARD OF UNLICENSED PSYCHOTHERAPISTS, AND THE STATE BOARD OF ADDICTION COUNSELOR EXAMINERS IN ADMINISTERING ARTICLE 245 OF THIS TITLE 12.

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (8) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: May 17, 2022